

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A deflector for the interior surface of a generally cylindrical vertically disposed screen in a vertical centrifugal pellet dryer, said deflector comprising at least one vertical deflecting strip supported from said screen and positioned ~~on~~ along the interior surface of the screen in generally parallel relation to the rotational axis of a driven bladed rotor operating within the screen for lifting and moving water laden ~~particles~~ pellets outwardly in a circular path to impact with the screen to separate water from the ~~particles~~ pellets for discharge of the water through the screen, said vertical strip including an inclined surface forming a leading edge oriented in opposed relation to circular movement of the ~~particles~~ pellets along the interior surface of the screen to deflect the ~~particles~~ pellets toward the rotor.

2. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1, wherein said inclined surface forming the leading edge of the strip includes an outer edge engaging the screen in leading

relation to an inner edge adjacent the rotor to define an inclined surface facing pellets moving in a circular path for deflection of the pellets toward the rotor.

3. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 2, wherein said strip is mounted on said screen by a bolt having a countersunk head flush with an inner surface of said strip to facilitate movement of the pellets between the rotor and strip.

4. (Currently Amended) The deflector as defined in claim 1, and further including at least one vertical mounting strip positioned on the outer surface of said screen and aligned with said at least one vertical deflecting strip and fasteners extending through said screen and strips to attach said strips ~~thereto~~ to said screen.

5. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one vertical deflecting strip is mounted on the interior surface of the screen.

6. (Currently Amended) The deflector as defined in claim 1, together with a plurality of additional vertical deflecting strips ~~mounted on~~ supported from said screen and positioned along the interior surface of said screen in circumferentially spaced relation.

7. (Currently Amended) The deflector as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one vertical deflecting strip includes an elongated vertical flange ~~clamped~~ supported between

radially outwardly extending ~~flange~~ vertical side edge flanges on
said screen which are bolted together to form said cylindrical
screen.

8. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1,
wherein said vertical strip has a lower end oriented above the
lower edge of said screen and an upper end terminating adjacent
an upper end of said screen.

9. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1,
wherein said vertical strip is positioned adjacent to but
outwardly of the path of movement of blades on the rotor.

10. (Original) In combination with a dryer having a
cylindrical screen and a driven bladed rotor disposed within said
screen for moving moisture laden particles longitudinally of the
screen and radially outwardly for impact with said screen for
separating moisture from the particles and discharge of the
moisture through the screen, said cylindrical screen having
vertical aligned end edges, said combination further including at
least one generally vertical extending deflector strip mounted on
an inner surface of said screen spaced from said vertically
aligned end edges for interrupting a flow of particles moving
along an inner surface of the screen.

11. (Original) The combination as defined in claim
10, wherein said deflector includes an inclined surface in
opposed relation to the flow of the particles for directing the

particles back toward the rotor for more effective movement of the particles and more effective separation of moisture from the particles.

12. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 10, wherein said deflector includes a plurality of longitudinally extending strips mounted on the interior surface of the screen, said strips being mounted in circumferentially spaced relation on the screen with each strip including an inclined surface facing the direction of rotation of the rotor for deflecting particles back toward the rotor to increase particle flow through the dryer and enhance separation of moisture by repeated application of centrifugal force to the particles during rotation of the rotor.

13. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 10, wherein said dryer, screen, bladed rotor and deflector strips are vertically oriented with the bladed rotor lifting the particles and imparting centrifugal forces thereto for impacting the particles against the screen for separation of moisture from the particles and discharge of moisture through the screen.

14. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 10, wherein said combination includes a plurality of generally vertically extending deflector strips mounted on an inner surface of said screen.

15. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 14, wherein said deflector strips are continuous extending from

adjacent the bottom edge of said cylindrical screen to adjacent a top edge of said cylindrical screen.

16. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1, wherein said deflector enables blades on the rotor to increase product flow through the dryer and more effectively remove water from the pellets.

17. (Original) The deflector as defined in claim 1, wherein said vertical strip is substantially continuous from adjacent a lower edge of said screen to adjacent an upper edge of said screen.

18. (Original) A cylindrical pellet dryer which comprises a generally cylindrical vertically disposed screen or aligned screen sections, a driven bladed rotor operating within said screen or screen sections for lifting and moving water laden particles outwardly in a circular path to impact with the screen to separate water from the particles for discharge of the water through said screen or screen sections, and at least one vertically extending elongated deflecting strip positioned on an interior surface of said screen in generally parallel relation to a rotational axis of the driven bladed rotor to interrupt a flow of particles moving along an inner surface of said screen or screen sections.

19. (Currently Amended) The centrifugal pellet dryer as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one elongated

deflecting strip is mounted on said screen interior surface by bolting to a mating mounting strip positioned in an aligned relation on an exterior surface of said screen or screen sections.

20. (Currently Amended) The centrifugal pellet dryer as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one elongated deflecting strip has a generally angle iron shape with an elongated flange of said strip clamped between radially outwardly extending vertical side edge flanges on said screen, which are bolted together to form said cylindrical screen or screen sections.